

CLAIMS

1. In combination:

2 a base upon which at least one sheet layer can be operatively supported
to be cut;

4 a guide assembly; and

a cutting blade assembly comprising first and second cutting blades,

6 the cutting blade assembly selectively changeable between a) a first state
wherein the first cutting blade is in a first operative position and the second cutting
8 blade is in a first inactive position and b) a second state wherein the second
cutting blade is in a second operative position and the first cutting blade is in a
10 second inactive position,

12 the cutting blade assembly cooperating with the guide assembly to be
movable guidingly in a cutting path,

14 the first cutting blade in the first operative position causing cutting of a sheet
layer operatively supported on the base as the cutting blade assembly is moved
in the cutting path,

16 the second cutting blade in the second operative position causing cutting
of a sheet layer operatively supported on the base as the cutting blade assembly
18 is moved in the cutting path.

2. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first cutting blade
2 moves from the first operative position into the second inactive position as an
incident of the second cutting blade moving from the first inactive position into the
4 second operative position.

3. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first and second
2 cutting blades are mounted on a blade carrier that is movable guidingly to
simultaneously change the first and second cutting blades between their operative
4 and inactive positions.

4. The combination according to claim 3 wherein the blade carrier is
2 guidingly movable around an axis to change the first and second cutting blades
between their operative and inactive positions.

5. The combination according to claim 4 wherein the base has a flat
2 support surface on which the at least one sheet layer can be operatively
supported, the flat support surface resides in a first plane, and the axis is
4 substantially parallel to the first plane.

6. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first and second blades have the same configuration.

7. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first and second blades have a different configuration to produce different types of cuts in a sheet layer.

8. The combination according to claim 4 wherein there is an automatically releasable mechanism that maintains the blade carrier in a first position wherein the first cutting blade is in the first operative position.

9. The combination according to claim 4 wherein the cutting blade assembly comprises a frame and there is structure cooperating between the frame and blade carrier for releasably maintaining the blade carrier in a first position relative to the frame wherein the first cutting blade is in the first operative position.

10. The combination according to claim 9 wherein the structure cooperating between the frame and carrier is capable of releasably maintaining the blade carrier in a second position relative to the frame wherein the second cutting blade is in the second operative position.

11. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the guide assembly
2 comprises an elongate rail.

12. The combination according to claim 11 wherein the elongate rail is
2 repositionable relative to the base.

13. The combination according to claim 12 wherein the elongate rail is
2 repositionable by translation relative to the base.

14. The combination according to claim 12 wherein the elongate rail is
2 repositionable by guided pivoting movement relative to the base.

15. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the cutting blade
2 assembly comprises a third cutting blade.

16. The combination according to claim 4 wherein the blade carrier has
2 a body with first and second oppositely facing flat sides and first and second posts
projecting from the first flat side and journaled for rotation respectively in the first
4 and second cutting blades.

17. The combination according to claim 16 wherein the first post projects
2 in a first line, the second post projects in a second line and the first and second
lines are substantially parallel to the axis.

18. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the cutting blade
2 assembly has indicia to identify which of the first and second cutting blades is in
its operative position.

19. The combination according to claim 4 wherein a graspable knob is
2 connected to the blade carrier and is repositionable to move the blade carrier
around the axis.

20. The combination according to claim 4 wherein the cutting blade
2 assembly comprises a frame comprising first and second joinable housing portions
and the blade carrier is captive between the first and second housing portions.

21. The combination according to claim 20 wherein the guide assembly
2 comprises an elongate rail and the first housing part has a slot through which at

least a part of the rail extends, the at least part of the rail sliding guidingly within
4 the slot as the cutting blade assembly is moved in the cutting path.

22. A cutting blade assembly for cutting sheet material, the cutting blade
2 assembly comprising:

a frame;

4 a blade carrier;

first and second cutting blades on the blade carrier; and

6 a guide rail engaging assembly capable of cooperating with a guide rail to
guide the cutting blade assembly in a predetermined cutting path,

8 the blade carrier movable guidingly relative to the frame to be selectively
placed in a) a first position relative to the frame wherein the first cutting blade is
10 in an operative position and the second cutting blade is in an inactive position and
b) a second position relative to the frame wherein the second cutting blade is in
12 an operative position and the first cutting blade is in an inactive position.

23. The cutting blade assembly according to claim 22 wherein the blade
2 carrier is movable around an axis between the first and second positions.

24. The cutting blade assembly according to claim 23 wherein with the
2 guide rail engaging assembly cooperating with a guide rail, the cutting blade
assembly is movable in the predetermined cutting path parallel to a plane of a flat
4 surface upon which a sheet layer to be cut can be supported, and the axis is
substantially parallel to the plane of the flat surface.